



The Wittnauer Mint

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AMERICAN NUMISMATICS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION IN BOSTON HERALDED AS A MAJOR EVENT

"It was my son who got me interested in coin collecting," a handsome white-haired woman explained to me as we sat sipping a wine punch in the lobby of the Boston Sheraton Hotel in late August, 1973.

"Teddy was born a little too soon to benefit from the Salk vaccine," she went on, "so he had polio at age five. Fortunately, his was a mild case and he was able to give up his braces before he became a teen-ager. I hit upon numismatics as a way to distract him while he was bed-ridden during those awful years. He was fascinated with his first little beginner's set of coins and a display album, so I haunted the local library and attended the monthly meetings of the Milwaukee coin collectors' society. Before I knew it, I was as deeply interested in coin collecting as was my son."

"Now," she continued, "Teddy is married and has two sons of his own. All of us—my husband and I, my son and daughter-in-law, and the grandchildren, came to this convention as a kind of special celebration." Her piercing blue eyes sparkled. "You see, the convention date is the same one as the day my son first walked without his braces."

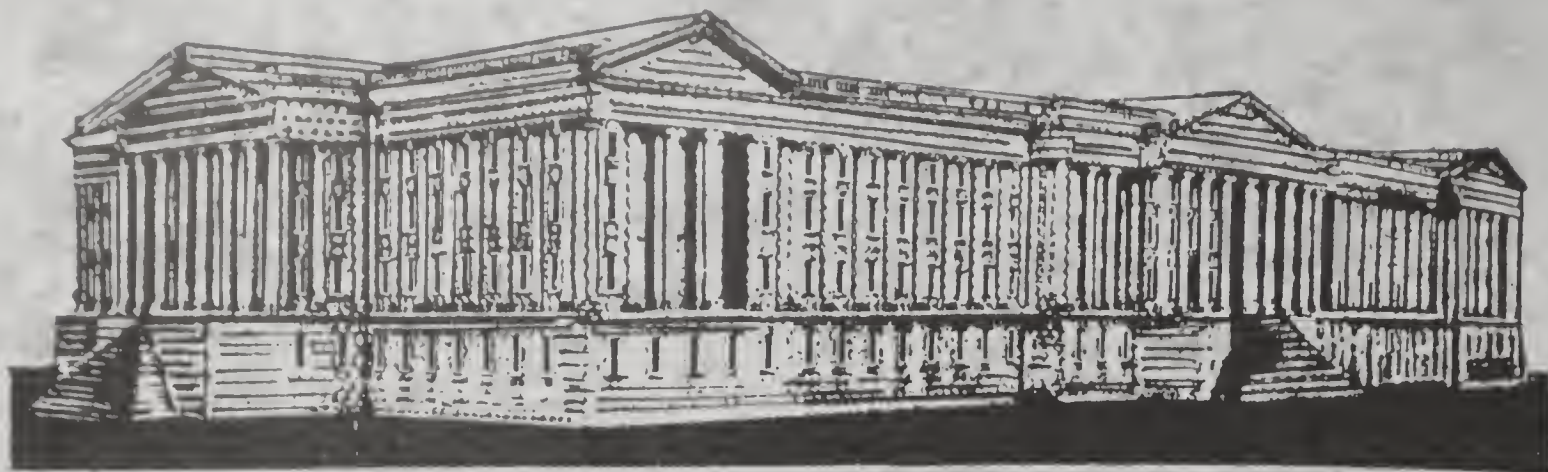
Stories like this were typical of the hobbyists this reporter interviewed at the A. N. A. convention. All of them said they had found a renewed interest in history, travel, and art as a result of their hobby. Many had made new and rewarding friendships with other hobbyists from all over the world. Two couples we interviewed had met at numismatic conventions.

Evidence of the recent fantastic upsurge of coin hobbyists was clearly illustrated by the fact that



room space at the convention hotel, the Boston Sheraton, was sold out as early as the end of July. In addition, the Hotel Colonnade and the Lennox Hotel were sold out by mid-August. More than 12,000 attended the convention, some for its entire four days, others only for the last two days when the largest and final auction was held, and when the convention featured several educational forums and a "tea party" banquet at the Sheraton.

The displays and bourses were set up in the Hynes Veterans Auditorium, which adjoins the hotel. Some of the forums and auctions were held in the Sheraton itself. The facilities were excellent and the displays too numerous and varied to be described in detail on these pages. But some of the highlights included unusual exhibits contributed by the U. S. government's departments of the Bureau of Engraving, the Mint, and the Postal Service.



U.S. Treasury Building, Washington, D.C.

Children at the convention crowded around the U. S. exhibits of old U. S. coins, and the bourses which were selling pieces like the ones in the exhibits. Favorites among the youngsters were Lincoln-Head cents. One young man, about eight or nine years old, was proudly showing off his receipt from a coin dealer for \$50 for a fine 1914D penny.

Two of the Lincoln-Head cents that enthralled the younger conventioners were: the 1909-1958 and the 1959-1964.



Lincoln Pennies 1942-1959



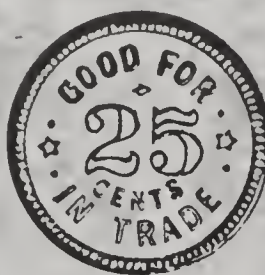
Indian Head-Buffalo Nickles 1915-1937

Nickel five-cent pieces also attracted a lot of attention. Prominent among them was the Indian Head and the Buffalo type nickel, from the 1913 issues.

Both the foreign visitors and the American ones showed a marked interest in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's display of prints and etchings outlining the history of U. S. coinage. Among them was the Philadelphia Mint as it looked in the days shortly before the Civil War, and an artist's rendering of the U. S. Treasury Building as it is depicted on Souvenir half dollars.

The meeting at the convention of the Token and Medal Society attracted a number of collectors who subscribe to private mint clubs such as The Wittnauer Mint. An informative lecture concerned

the history of "tokens" as substitute money in "hard times," when trading posts or large mining companies gave out inexpensive coins as tokens of their pledge for merchandise in exchange for labor or tradable goods such as fur pelts, grain, fish, and tobacco. Shown here is an Alaskan token which might have come out of the days of a Charlie Chaplin or Wallace Beery silent movie!



At the same meeting, commemorative coins were discussed. In this category are several Wittnauer Mint collections which celebrate great events in United States history. If you don't own these beautiful medallions yet, consider them for your private collection because they are sure to become more valuable as time goes on—and will be a source of great esthetic pleasure meanwhile!

A Gift Of Beauty Combined With Your Hobby

As a coin collector, you might be interested in a gold coin, set in a 14k gold mounting, and studded with cultured pearls that can be worn as an elegant pendant or as a charm on a bracelet. Sold by its creators, the Trend Coin Co., of Miami, Florida, it is one of a large collection of rings, cuff links, money clips, necklaces and bracelets—all fashioned of genuine coins embellished with beautiful gems. A decorated \$20 coin that sells for \$250 would be the perfect anniversary or birthday gift for someone whose hobby is numismatics—or for the spouse or relative of a coin collector. Other items at Trend range in price from \$3.50 to \$300. Write for their catalogue at 8990 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Fla.



The Philadelphia Mint in Civil War Times



The Philadelphia Mint Early 1900s

Next time you do the Museum sightseeing circuit in New York City, don't miss their gift shops. All of them have gifts fashioned from coins that range in cost from the least expensive to the very precious. The United Nations gift shop has some most unusual pieces, some of them handcrafted, all of them sure to delight anyone whether he's interested in coins or not. And, who knows? Maybe your lovely gift will help make another convert to our hobby!

Also try the gift shops at the American Museum of Natural History, the Museum of American Folk Art, and the Museum of the New York Historical Society. The latter is currently showing an exhibit of miniatures and medals which are of special interest to numismatists.



U. S. Postal Service Honored With New Medallion

The third of a series of twelve medals has recently been issued to honor the 125th anniversary of the United States Postal Service.



The obverse shows the first U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1847. The reverse lists dates and other facts about stamps of the past.

This medallion is 39 millimeters and is available in silver for \$12, in nickel-silver at \$5, and in antique bronze at \$3. For further information on ordering, write the United States Post Office, Memphis, Tennessee.

Art Medal Created By World-Famous Sculptor Now Available To Collectors

The creator of the renowned Prometheus Fountain at Rockefeller Center in New York City, Paulanship, was also a master sculptor of bas-relief coins. The Society of Medalists has recently issued a beautiful example of the late artist's medallic masterpiece, a tribute to wines and the mythology surrounding them.

The 73 millimeter silver medal shows the head of Dionysus on its obverse, with the words "Hail

To Dionysus Who First Discovered The Magic of the Grape."



The reverse of the coin depicts two mythological characters, probably satyrs, treading on grapes to press them for wine.

For information on obtaining this medallion, try contacting the Society of Medalists in Weston, Connecticut.

Wisconsin Chamber Of Commerce Issues Historic Medallion For 125th Anniversary



If you're not from Wisconsin, you may never have heard of Mayville in Dodge County—but that's where pioneer history was made, and where today one of the most celebrated bird sanctuaries in our nation now exists.

Mayville recently issued a commemorative medal to honor its 125th anniversary. The obverse shows a stylized Canadian goose (to point out Mayville's location on the edge of the famed Horicon Marsh goose sanctuary) and the dates of the anniversary. The reverse features a Conestoga wagon being driven by a frontier couple.

This special medal is on sale for only \$1.25, in 35 millimeter antique bronze, and can be ordered from the M&I Bank of Mayville, Wisconsin 53050.

